



Tennessee News Release

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In Cooperation with Tennessee Department of Agriculture

THE 2011 PLANTING SEASON IS ABOUT WRAPPED-UP

NASHVILLE, June 30, 2011 – Adverse weather and the outlook for good prices greeted Tennessee farmers during this year's spring planting campaign. Some producers in the state dealt with flooding from heavy spring rains or damage and debris left by high winds and tornadoes. In many cases, due to excess rainfall and flooding, crops were planted a full two weeks later than the five-year average pace. Hay harvest was also delayed. Debra Kenerson, State Director, stated "It was one of the toughest planting seasons in recent history and farmers were challenged to meet their intentions." Based on a recent survey conducted by USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service Tennessee Field Office, cotton and corn growers planted significantly more acreage than in 2010. Soybean acreage is expected to be down moderately from 2010. Tennessee's cotton, soybean, corn, and tobacco crops are all rated in mostly good condition. Crop acreages and changes from last year are as follows: **cotton**, 460,000 acres, up 18 percent; **soybeans**, 1.38 million acres, down 5 percent; **corn**, 770,000 acres, up 8 percent; **tobacco**, 24,200 acres, up 9 percent; **wheat**, 390,000 acres, up 50 percent; and **hay**, 1.92 million acres, down 2 percent.

COTTON ACREAGE UP SIGNIFICANTLY

Cotton acreage for 2011 is estimated at 460,000 acres, up 70,000 from last year. Wet, stormy weather challenged growers as they struggled into mid-June to complete planting. Price strength stimulated the increase in acreage from last year. The cotton crop is in the squaring stage now and developing at a pace a little more than a week behind the five-year average. The acreage is rated in mostly good condition.

SOYBEAN ACREAGE DOWN SLIGHTLY

Tennessee's 2011 soybean acreage is estimated at 1.38 million acres, down 70,000 acres from 2010, but up 20,000 acres from earlier intentions. Acreage for harvest is estimated at 1.34 million acres, down 70,000 acres from 2010. Since March, Tennessee producers have experienced frustrating weather, with rain, flooding, and even some tornados. Soybeans are developing at a pace slightly behind the five-year average and are rated in mostly good condition.

CORN ACREAGE INCREASES

The State's corn acreage is estimated at 770,000 acres, up 60,000 acres from last year, but down 50,000 from earlier intentions. Growers expect to harvest 710,000 acres for grain, up 70,000 acres from a year earlier. Widespread flooding and prolonged wet field conditions in many parts of the state caused some planting delays into early June. Currently, the corn crop is in the silking stage and developing at a pace a few days behind the five-year average. The crop is rated in mostly good condition.

TOBACCO ACREAGE UP

The State's burley tobacco acreage is forecast to increase by 1,000 acres from the previous year to 16,000 acres. Total tobacco acreage, which includes burley, dark fire-cured and dark air-cured, is set at a total of 24,200 acres, up 1,900 acres from a year earlier. The dark-types are both expected to be up from last year. Dark tobacco acreage and changes from 2010 are as follows: dark fire-cured, 7,000 acres, up 13 percent; dark air-cured, 1,200 acres, up 9 percent. Growers have transplanted the most dark-fire-cured acreage since 2008. Tobacco transplanting is almost completed and at a pace about a week behind the five-year average. The crop is rated in mostly good condition.

(OVER)

WHEAT ACREAGE INCREASES SHARPLY

The winter wheat planted area for the 2011 season is estimated at 390,000 acres, up 130,000 acres from 2010. Grain harvest is expected to reach 310,000 acres, also up 130,000 acres from 2010. Tennessee's wheat growers in 2011 had to contend with highly unusual conditions. First, the crop was planted later than usual. Then, storms and floods plagued the crop in the spring. Finally, hot dry weather during crop maturity presented some potential yield problems. In spite of these conditions, the 2011 winter wheat harvest is nearly complete and expected to yield better than the five-year average.

ALFALFA ACREAGE UP; OTHER HAY ACREAGE DOWN

Tennessee producers intend to harvest 1.92 million acres of hay in 2011, down 2 percent from a year earlier. Alfalfa acreage is estimated at 20,000 acres, up 5,000 acres from last year. All other hay is estimated at 1.90 million acres, down 3 percent from 2010. The first cutting of hay is nearly complete and quality is generally favorable. However, some hay fields across Tennessee are not being harvested due to debris deposited by spring storms and flooding.

Planted and Harvested Acreage of Principal Crops: Tennessee and U.S., 2010-2011

Crop	Planted Acres		Harvested Acres		
	2010	2011	2010	2011	2010/2011
	1,000 Acres				Percent
TENNESSEE					
Corn	710	770	640	710	111
Cotton	390	460	387	¹	-
Soybeans	1,450	1,380	1,410	1,340	95
Winter Wheat	260	390	180	310	172
Hay, all	-	-	1,965	1,920	98
Alfalfa	-	-	15	20	133
All Other	-	-	1,950	1,900	97
Tobacco, all	-	-	22.30	24.20	109
Dark fire-cured	-	-	6.20	7.00	113
Burley	-	-	15.00	16.00	107
Dark air-cured	-	-	1.10	1.20	109
UNITED STATES					
Corn	88,192	92,282	81,446	84,888	104
Cotton ²	10,974.2	13,725.0	10,698.7	¹	-
Soybeans	77,404	75,208	76,616	74,258	97
Winter Wheat	37,335	41,108	31,749	32,307	102
Hay, all	-	-	59,862	57,605	96
Alfalfa	-	-	19,956	19,329	97
All Other	-	-	39,906	38,276	96
Tobacco, all	-	-	337.5	336.1	100
Dark fire-cured	-	-	15.65	16.85	108
Burley	-	-	97.60	90.00	92
Dark air-cured	-	-	5.50	5.40	98

¹Estimate to be released August 11, 2011. ²U.S. acreage includes American Pima cotton.